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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning is currently updating its GOTO2040 master plan as part of a federally-required mid-decade update; and

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WHEREAS, A new initiative for first-class passenger rail service called Crossrail Chicago has emerged which would, for the first time, connect Metra route lines together, knitting together the Chicagoland region; and

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WHEREAS, Metra currently runs 11 separate lines, each of which terminates in downtown Chicago; these lines do not travel through downtown Chicago, a route which would be far more efficient; and

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WHEREAS, Northeast Illinois has long suffered from a jobs-housing mismatch, where tens of thousands of entry-level jobs in and around O'Hare airport and the northwest suburbs struggle to be filled, while tens of thousands of residents of the south side and south suburbs struggle to find employment; and

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WHEREAS, Current public transportation between the south suburbs and the south side of Chicago and the northwest suburbs is a long, laborious journey involving transfers between buses

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1 and rail, creating a greater barrier to full employment in the
2 region; and

3 WHEREAS, This initiative is consistent with the long-term
4 vision for northeastern Illinois set forth by the Chicago
5 Metropolitan Agency for Planning; and

6 WHEREAS, Crossrail Chicago could connect Rockford, Elgin,
7 Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg, Arlington Heights, and O'Hare
8 through Union Station to McCormick Place, Hyde Park, Homewood,
9 University Park, the south suburban airport, Kankakee, and
10 Champaign-Urbana in one electrified track; and

11 WHEREAS, The new electrified line of Crossrail Chicago
12 would be located largely on publicly-owned rights-of-way and
13 could bring tremendous economic benefits to the region and
14 State; and

15 WHEREAS, Metra service along the Metro Electric Line from
16 University Park to McCormick Place could be significantly
17 improved through the Crossrail Chicago initiative; and

18 WHEREAS, Crossrail Chicago can also serve as the trunk of a
19 Midwest high-speed rail network, which would bring millions of
20 people together into one stronger economic unit; therefore, be
21 it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we urge the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning to include
4 Crossrail Chicago in its list of fiscally unconstrained
5 projects as consistent with the GOTO2040 vision, making the
6 projects of Crossrail Chicago eligible for federal funds; and
7 be it further

8 RESOLVED, That we urge the Illinois Department of
9 Transportation, Metra, the Chicago Transit Authority, and the
10 Chicago Department of Aviation to support the inclusion of
11 Crossrail Chicago as part of GOTO2040's mid-decade update as a
12 project on the fiscally unconstrained list as consistent with
13 the long-term plans of those agencies; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 delivered to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, the
16 Illinois Department of Transportation, Metra, the Chicago
17 Transit Authority, and the Chicago Department of Aviation.